



Photos by: WO2 Fiona Stapley, ISAF Chief Photographer and SHAPE photos

# THE NATO RIGA SUMMIT

## *An Alliance that Continues to Deliver*

*"All that we hope to achieve together requires that America and Europe remain close partners. We are the pillars of the free world. We face the same threats and share the same belief in freedom and the rights of every individual."*

— President George W. Bush

Allied Heads of State and Government will meet in Riga, Latvia November 28-29, for a NATO Summit. This meeting will demonstrate a united transatlantic community, acting together to address the global challenges of the 21st century.

### WHY NATO?

NATO is a unique international security organization where North America and Europe, the great pillars of the transatlantic democratic community, come together for strategic consultations and common action to protect against threats and address common concerns.

### NATO PRIORITIES

#### Afghanistan

Afghanistan, more than 2,000 miles from Europe's frontiers, is NATO's top issue and one of the greatest challenges of its 57-year history. The NATO-led U.N.-mandated International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is now helping the Afghan Government to establish security and stability throughout the country. About 32,000 troops from all 26 Allies and 11 partner countries are working to provide a secure environment in which development and reconstruction can take place.

#### Transformation

Afghanistan is the engine driving NATO's transformation, as Allies recognize the importance of being able to deploy and sustain forces at strategic distance. They also see the

#### NATO SECURITY OPERATIONS

- Afghanistan
- Kosovo
- Iraq
- The Mediterranean
- Darfur – support for the African Union's mission
- Pakistan – earthquake humanitarian relief

need for investing more in 21st century military capabilities.

#### ***Building Critical Capabilities***

The Riga Summit is showcasing the Alliance's efforts to build critical capabilities like strategic airlift to move soldiers, equipment, and material to wherever threats might arise around the globe. Fifteen Allies and one partner have agreed to invest over \$650 million in a small fleet of C-17 aircraft. The

NATO Response Force, the Alliance's quick reaction force of 25,000 troops, can act where and when it is needed. NATO is also an increasingly active trainer, with ongoing programs in Iraq, Darfur and Afghanistan. The U.S. would like the Alliance to offer training more broadly in Africa and the Middle East, building ties with these critical regions.

#### ***Growth and Partnership***

NATO plays an enduring role as a mentor and magnet to new democracies in the Euro-Atlantic area. Its door will remain open to new potential member countries.

NATO must also recognize the vital role played by its partners, who are committing their troops and resources to Alliance missions in places like Afghanistan and Kosovo. Because NATO is taking action across the globe, at Riga, Allies will agree to work more seamlessly and flexibly with partners outside of NATO, such as Australia, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, who share our values and can contribute to our efforts.



Supreme Headquarters  
Allied Powers Europe  
and  
Allied Command Operations

**Statement by General James L. Jones  
Supreme Allied Commander  
Regarding the Outcome of the Riga Summit**

*RIGA, Latvia  
November 28, 2006*

As Commander of Allied Command Operations, I am encouraged by the determination and solidarity of the nations' common defence and security by means of their very real commitment of their precious resources.

**NATO Response Force**

The member nations have committed the resources needed to allow me to recommend to the Secretary General that the NATO Response Force (NRF) is at Full Operational Capability (FOC).

This FOC declaration ends the uncertainty that has prevailed for some months and shows that the nations are committed to the concept of a flexible, deployable, interoperable and sustainable force that includes land, sea and air elements and is ready to react quickly wherever needed by the Alliance.

Over the past few years, we have developed and tested the concept, used parts of it in Pakistan after last year's terrible earthquake, and evaluated its capabilities during exercises in Cape Verde and it is now a reality that will serve the Alliance well.

I want to personally thank all the nations that have worked so hard to make the NRF concept a viable reality. I want to especially thank the nations that have recently come forward to ensure that NRF 8 and the next two rotations have the resources needed for FOC, particularly Bulgaria, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, Romania, Spain, Turkey, the United States, Italy and the United Kingdom.

**Afghanistan**

During and preceding meetings at Riga, many nations involved in Afghanistan reduced or eliminated many of the national restrictions imposed for the use of their forces (known as caveats) and this will now allow the commander of the mission to more effectively use troops throughout Afghanistan.

**Special Operating Forces**

Modern military operations require more Special Operating Forces (SOF) than ever before. NATO has been working toward greater coordination of the Alliance SOF capabilities and the nations have moved to approve new initiatives that will allow us to develop better coordination and training in this very important 21<sup>st</sup> century capability.

**Intelligence Fusion Centre in support of NATO**

Emerging threats are best countered through a dynamic intelligence organization that can react and transform as quickly as the threats emerge. Just this past October, I attended the official opening of the Intelligence Fusion Center in support of NATO at Molesworth in the UK. This is a significant resource that will allow the Allies and Partner nations to share global intelligence information that will improve intelligence support directly related to Allied Command Operations. This will be particularly important when rapidly deploying the NATO Response Forces.

This is another demonstration that the Allies are working to a common future and that the transformation of NATO is well underway.